

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 125850  
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PK, FR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON NUCLEAR SALE TO PAKISTAN

1. THE JUNE 1 NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES FOLLOWING STORY FILED  
BY FLORA LEWIS IN PARIS:

QUOTE: FRANCE HOLDS UP PROPOSED SALE OF A NUCLEAR PLANT TO  
PAKISTAN. PARIS, MAY 31 - FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD UP  
ITS CONTROVERSIAL SALE OF A NUCLEAR PLANT TO PAKISTAN,  
OFFICIALS DISCLOSED HERE TODAY.

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE, IN PARIS FOR THE CON-  
CLUSION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE, WAS TOLD BY THE  
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD, YESTERDAY THAT  
ESSENTIAL BLUEPRINTS DUE FOR DELIVERY BY NOW HAD NOT BEEN  
SENT AND WOULD NOT BE SENT FOR THE TIME BEING.

IN EFFECT, THE DECISION BRINGS FRANCE INTO LINE WITH  
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PAGE 02 STATE 125850

PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE EXPORT OF  
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANTS THAT COULD ENABLE MORE  
COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP ATOMIC WEAPONS.

DIPLOMATS INFORMED OF THE DEVELOPMENT INSISTED THAT THE  
UNITED STATES HAD USED NO PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH, ALTHOUGH

THE PLANNED SALE TO PAKISTAN HAS BEEN AN ISSUE OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR OVER A YEAR. THE DIPLOMATS SAID THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD COME AROUND ITSELF TO ACCEPT THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED BY WASHINGTON.

POLITICAL SITUATION A FACTOR - OFFICIALLY, THE FRENCH ARE NOT CANCELING THEIR AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN BUT HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE POLITICAL UPHEAVALS THERE AND UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT PRESIDENT ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO'S FUTURE MAKE IT UNWISE TO GO AHEAD WITH DELIVERY SCHEDULES.

FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO PAY CANCELLATION PENALTIES IF IT VOIDED THE SALES CONTRACT, WHICH WOULD BE AVOIDED IF PAKISTAN CHANGED ITS MIND ABOUT THE PURCHASE. THAT WAS HOW A SIMILAR DEAL BETWEEN FRANCE AND SOUTH KOREA WAS BROKEN AFTER WASHINGTON MADE ITS DISAPPROVAL CLEAR TO SEOUL.

SINCE THE CONTRACT WITH PAKISTAN WAS SIGNED, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW POLICY BARRING ANY MORE SUCH SALES.

SOME BLUEPRINTS FOR THE PLANT HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT BUT THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED CRUCIAL. THE NEXT SET, UNDERSTOOD TO INCLUDE PLANS FOR THE CUTTING MACHINE THAT IS NECESSARY TO BREAK UP SPENT URANIUM RODS FOR THE PROCESS TO SEPARATE OUT PLUTONIUM, WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT.

THE VANCE-GUIRINGAUD CONVERSATIONS WERE THE CLIMAX OF TALKS  
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PAGE 03 STATE 125850

HELD IN LONDON BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING LAST MONTH, AND CONTINUED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC AIDES.

THEY ALSO DEALT WITH EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE SPECIAL NUCLEAR-STUDY GROUP THAT GOVERNMENT HEADS HAD AGREED TO SET UP DURING THE LONDON MEETING. IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN STARTED IMMEDIATELY AND TO HAVE REPORTED WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS, BUT THAT DEADLINE IS NOW ADMITTED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE AND OFFICIALS SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE ANOTHER MONTH JUST TO LAUNCH THE STUDY.

INCLUSION OF ACTUAL OR LIKELY CUSTOMERS FOR REPROCESSING PLANTS, SUCH AS BRAZIL, PAKISTAN AND INDIA, ALONG WITH EXPERTS FROM THE SEVEN NATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE LONDON MEETING - THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY AND JAPAN - IS BEING CONSIDERED.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM EITHER SIDE ON FRANCE'S

DECISION. THE UNITED STATES IS AWARE THAT THE ISSUE HAS

CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN FRANCE AND THAT IT WOULD HURT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING IF THERE WERE THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION THAT HE HAD YIELDED TO PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON.

DECISION LEAVES GERMANY ISOLATED - DIPLOMATS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE WHO WERE INFORMED OF THE NEW STAND BY FRANCE WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO STRESS THAT FRANCE HAD MADE THE DECISION ON ITS OWN AND THAT THE FRENCH WERE BEING QUOTE VERY REASONABLE. UNQUOTE

BOTH THE NEW FRENCH MOVE, AND THE DELAY AND POSSIBLE BROADENING OF THE STUDY GROUP, TENDED TO ISOLATE WEST GERMANY, WHICH HAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO ONLY A SHORT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 125850

PAUSE IN ITS DECISION TO SELL A REPROCESSING PLANT TO BRAZIL.

SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S EFFORTS THEY NOW BELIEVED THERE WAS PROBABLY NO WAY THAT THE DEAL BETWEEN GERMANY AND BRAZIL COULD BE HEADED OFF.

THE EXAMPLE OF INDIA WAS ADVANCED BY MR. VANCE IN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH TO HOLD BACK ON THE PAKISTANI SALE. THE NEW DELHI GOVERNMENT THAT TOOK POWER AFTER THE DEFEAT OF INDIRA GANDHI IS WILLING TO REVISE ITS NUCLEAR POLICY. AND NEW ASSURANCES ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY INDIA THAT IT WOULD NOT PROCEED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN RETURN FOR AN EMERGENCY SHIPMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF FUEL FOR REACTORS IN DANGER OF HAVING TO SHUT DOWN.

ALTHOUGH INDIA HAS EXPLODED A NUCLEAR DEVICE, AMERICAN EXPERTS SAID THERE WAS STILL A CONSIDERABLE WAY TO GO BEFORE IT COULD BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A NUCLEAR ARM. END QUOTE

2. DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD INFORMED THE SECRETARY IN PARIS YESTERDAY THAT THE FRENCH ARE HOLDING UP BLUEPRINTS ON EQUIPMENT FOR PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT?

A: THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARY. I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS

SUBJECT.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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